

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 01957 301007Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01  
PER-01 ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /052 W  
-----037418 302133Z /73  
R 300925Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8677  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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PASS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DIKEOS FROM SCHNEIDER

HONG KONG FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: RSO POSITION

REF: STATE 078794

1. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT DURING MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS YOU INFORMED ME THAT THE DEPARTMENT PLANNED TO ELIMINATE THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER POSITION IN DACCA. DURING MY FIRST WEEK HERE I HAVE REVIEWED THE SITUATION AND CONCLUDE THAT ONLY THE DEPARTMENT CAN DETERMINE THE RELATIVE NEED BETWEEN HERE AND ELSEWHERE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, CERTAIN FACTS OF WHICH I HAVE BEEN UNAWARE WHEN WE TALKED WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

A) FBO HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CHANCERY AND WORK WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR AND BE IN FULL SWING WITHIN A YEAR. ALSO WORK ON A NEW USIS CULTURAL CENTER IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE THIS YEAR. THE PRESENCE OF AN RSO WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE PROGRESS OF  
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PAGE 02 DACCA 01957 301007Z

THESE PROJECTS.

B) DACCA'S ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IS PRESENTLY JUST SUFFICIENT FOR THE NEEDS OF THE MISSION AND THE ABOVE-NOTED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WILL PLACE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON THEM. THE ADDITION AT THE SAME TIME OF THE TASKS PRESENTLY HANDLED BY THE RSO, E.G., THE MANAGEMENT OF A 220-MAN LOCAL GUARD FORCE AND A CONTINUING NEED TO

UPGRADE RESIDENTIAL SECURITY, WOULD STRAIN THEIR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY PERFORM THEIR FUNCTION.

C) RSS KNAUF, DURING HIS VISIT EARLIER THIS MONTH, MENTIONED PLACING RESPONSIBILITY FOR KATHMANDU UNDER RSO DACCA, THUS INCREASING THE LATTER'S SY WORKLOAD AND RELIEVING SOME OF THE BURDEN ON RSO NEW DELHI. THIS IS ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER.

D) FINALLY, BANGLADESH HAS A TURBULENT HISTORY AND THIS MISSION HAS TWICE IN THE LAST TEN YEARS BEEN THE TARGET OF VIOLENT ACTIVITY. WHILE THE COUNTRY IS NOW IN A RELATIVELY STABLE PERIOD, THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE FUTURE IS NOT SO BRIGHT. RECENTLY, STUDENT AND LABOR UNREST HAS BEEN INCREASING AND THE STABILITY WITHIN THE MILITARY IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION. EVENTS HAPPEN QUICKLY HERE AND OUR ABILITY TO REACT MUST BE EQUALLY AS RAPID.

2. I CONCLUDE FROM THE ABOVE THAT THERE IS IN FACT IMPORTANT WORK FOR A SECURITY OFFICER TO DO IN DACCA. THE CURRENT RSO AGREES WITH THIS AND PERSONALLY RECOMMENDS THAT HIS POSITION BE RETAINED. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT RSS KNAUF ALSO INCLINES TO THIS VIEW. I PREFER, HOWEVER, TO LEAVE THE DECISION TO THE DEPARTMENT AS I RECOGNIZE THAT NEED IS RELATIVE AND THERE MAY BE MORE URGENT REQUIREMENTS ELSEWHERE.

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PAGE 03     DACCA 01957 301007Z

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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